

**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
TELECOMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL**

**Summation of Minutes from
Tuesday May 1, 2007**

I. Introduction and Comments

Members present:

Carl Zager

Eric Ost

Suzann Owen

Jesse Strycker

Duane Busick came in after role call

Others present:

Michael White, CATS

Justin Goodwin

Public:

II. Approval of Minutes

Strycker motioned to approve the April 3, 2007 minutes. Zager seconded.
All in favor. 4-0-1.

Old Business

A). Rewriting of the Telecommunications Ordinance

IV. Public Comment

Reports and Announcements

A). BTC Members

Owen updated the council about State telecommunications legislation and at present time the same legislation that has been presented in other states has been defeated in Washington. It has passed in Iowa, Florida, and Vermont and is awaiting the Government's signature. It has passed in Missouri and is headed to the State. Indiana passed the law too quickly without tightening down on the requirements of the new legislation and now Indiana is paying the consequences for not doing so and is not seeing full compliance of the new law. Owen stated that in Texas there was a challenge of the law, the fees were being challenged as being additional taxation.

Zager stated that he had received a phone call from John Hooker who had received a phone call from Mr. Tone, an Insight customer. He wanted to speak with Zager and Mr. Hooker about the emergency alert system. His problem was with the override. Zager stated that it was a very positive conversation. Mr. Tone had mentioned that during the test on Friday mornings there is no indication that it is a test and appears to be a normal override and a normal alert. Mr. Tone also stated that there had been some times when the emergency override had been ahead of the local media, and while at first this was a positive thing telling customers to tune to their local media but when a customer does so there is nothing on the news about a storm or bad weather approaching since the alert is ahead of any broadcasting. The third thing that Mr. Tone wanted to mention was getting out to the community why there are alert sirens and what their purpose really is. Zager stated that the purpose of the sirens is for people that are away from a radio or a telephone so they can warn them of an impending storm. Strycker agreed with educating the public regarding the sirens. Busick stated that he thought that the intent of the sirens is so people can hear them both inside and out. Zager stated that he hoped to speak with Mr. Hooker and Mr. Tone about this further.

Ost stated he had mentioned at the May 1, 2007 meeting that he wanted to add AT&T to the TCC agenda. Owen moved that AT&T and BDU be added to the agenda for the telecommunications meetings. Busick seconded. All in favor. 5-0-0.

B.) Insight Communications

The report is in the official record.

No one was present from Insight.

C.) CATS

The report is in the official record.

Michael White presented the report to the council.

Owen asked if CATS would be covering Dancing with the Stars. White stated he had been asked about this and would love to cover the event.

Owen asked White what, if anything, CATS had heard from AT&T. White stated that CATS has heard nothing from them. Owen asked if anyone had phoned about not being able to get CATS if they are subscribed to U-Verse through AT&T. White stated he had gotten some calls asking if CATS would be available, he directed them to the IURC.

D.) WTIU

The report is in the official record.

Meyer only reports, in person, to the council every quarter.

Strycker presented the highlights of report to the council.

III. Old Business

A.) The role of the BTC.

IV. New Business

Zager stated he is still at a loss as to what the relationship with the City of Bloomington and the IURC is actually going to be and after going online to try to communicate with them was very disappointed. The complaint process is geared around them thinking they are a utility, which does well for utility customers with complaints, but not for the general public to lodge a complaint or ask a question regarding their local video service provider. Zager stated that maybe the council should begin some kind of a relationship with the IURC, though he is not sure where to begin with beginning one. Owen stated she believes that Matt Pierce would be good council, since he is an elected official at the State level, and his guidance would be very helpful. Owen asked Busick if he contacted AT&T, he stated he had not yet.

Ost stated that with the franchise fees that the council has the right to request a formal audit of the video service providers. Owen stated that there few counties with boards like the TCC through out Indiana and that no one in the entire state of Indiana has six PEG Channels. Zager stated that there are two aspects of cable service in Monroe County and Bloomington that he would like to see defended and protected. One of those is the PEG Channels and the second is the emergency alert system and those being lost or eroding away if a new provider decides that these channels are not important would be a disservice to Monroe County. Busick stated that protection of the alerts would have to come from the Federal level. Ost stated the new telecommunication laws are new territory to the IURC as well and it could take quite some time for them to get educated so they can better serve the public.

Strycker wondered if sending a letter to the newspaper to all subscribers asking residents about their cable provider and the quality of service being provided them would be a good idea. Busick stated a letter to the editor would not be a bad idea and a copy of the same letter should be sent to the Indianapolis Star. Owen stated that this should wait until May 15 to do any type of letter.

V. Adjournment

The next official meeting of the Telecommunications Council will be Tuesday June 5, 2007 at 7:30 in the Council Chambers.